

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An electrolyte electrode assembly sandwiched between a pair of separators, said electrolyte electrode assembly comprising an anode, a cathode, and an electrolyte interposed between said anode and said cathode, and bosses being formed on said pair of separators, wherein

a layer is provided between said cathode and said bosses on said one of said separators, said layer comprising material which has electron conductivity higher than that of said cathode, and which is capable of inducing oxygen reduction, the layer having a thickness in the range of 1 μm to 5 μm of less than 10 μm .

2. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein said layer comprises a complex oxide containing at least a rare-earth element A, a transitional metal element C, and oxygen O.

3. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 2, wherein the rare-earth element A comprises at least one element selected from the group consisting of La, Sm, Nd, and Pr, and the transitional metal element C comprises at least one element selected from the group consisting of Co, Fe, Ni, Cr, Mn, Ga and Ti.

4. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 2, wherein said layer further contains an alkaline-earth metal element B, and composition formula of material of said layer is $A_xB_{1-x}CO_3$ ($0.5 \leq x \leq 1.0$).

5. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 4, wherein the rare-earth element A comprises at least one element selected from the group consisting of La, Sm, Nd, and Pr, the transitional metal element C comprises at least one element selected from the group consisting of Co, Fe, Ni, Cr, Mn, Ga and Ti, and the alkaline-earth metal element B comprises at least one element selected from the group consisting of Ca, Sr, and Ba.

6. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 2, wherein said layer comprises a perovskite complex oxide.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Withdrawn) A method of producing an electrolyte electrode assembly sandwiched between a pair of separators, said electrolyte electrode assembly including an anode, a cathode, and an electrolyte interposed between said anode and said cathode, said method comprising the steps of:

providing said anode;

stacking said electrolyte on said anode for allowing oxide ions to move through said electrolyte, and then, applying a firing process to said anode and said electrolyte;

providing said cathode on said electrolyte after the firing process; and

providing a layer on said cathode, said layer comprising material which has electron conductivity higher than that of said cathode, and which is capable of inducing oxygen reduction.

9. (Withdrawn) A method of producing an electrolyte electrode assembly according to claim 8, wherein a firing process is applied to said cathode and said layer after said layer is provided on said cathode.

10. (Withdrawn) A method of producing an electrolyte electrode assembly according to claim 8, wherein said layer is provided after applying a firing process to said cathode, and then, a firing process is applied to said layer.

11. (Withdrawn) A method of producing an electrolyte electrode assembly sandwiched between a pair of separators, said electrolyte electrode assembly including an anode, a cathode, and an electrolyte interposed between said anode and said cathode, said method comprising the steps of:

providing said electrolyte by applying a firing process to powder of material which is prepared to have oxide ion conductivity;

providing said anode on one surface of said electrolyte;

providing said cathode on the other surface of said electrolyte); and

providing a layer on an exposed surface of said cathode, said layer comprising material

which has electron conductivity higher than that of said cathode, and which is capable of inducing oxygen reduction.

12. (Withdrawn) A method of producing an electrolyte electrode assembly according to claim 11, wherein said anode is stacked on one surface of said electrolyte, and said cathode is stacked on the other surface of said electrolyte, then, said layer is stacked on said cathode, and subsequently, a firing process is applied to said anode, said cathode and said layer.

13. (Withdrawn) A method of producing an electrolyte electrode assembly according to claim 11, wherein a firing process is applied to said anode, then, said cathode and said layer are stacked on said electrolyte, thereafter, a firing process is applied to said cathode and said layer.

14. (Withdrawn) A method of producing an electrolyte electrode assembly) according to claim 11, wherein (i) a firing process is applied to said anode, then, (ii) said cathode is stacked on said electrolyte, then, (iii) a firing process is applied to said cathode, then, (iv) said layer is stacked on said cathode, and then, (v) a firing process is applied to said layer.

15. (Canceled).